

# SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

**Present:** - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Calvert, Richardson & Bell, Alan Coe (REMS), North Yorkshire Councillor Les, Members of the Public x 2

- 1) Apologies. Cllr Harper, PCSO Brown
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 25<sup>th</sup> October. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. Report for October read. Current awareness around driving safely in Winter, clerk to put on Facebook.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. None.
- 6) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative & SOS group. SOS group. Continue to publicise through social media, and collecting names and addresses for their data base; also taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Bolton on Swale.  
Tarmac representative. Alan Coe gives his report: Information boards/rest points ongoing. Community feedback, mountain bike orienteering event 9/12, notification on notice boards that horse boxes are allowed in the car parks; there has been lots of positive feedback via the Facebook page, and the car park was full one morning and so being well used by many. Cllrs were pleased to hear about the positive feedback and popularity. Actions taken: work to south car park entrance, bridleway maintenance, drainage and grading works and habitat works in the wetland link to create deeper areas. Planned work: footpath work to aid restricted users, further drainage work on bridleway, south car park, ash tree & willow coppice, remove areas of fencing, tree guard removals. Latest WEBS data (2022) 54 species of wetland birds recorded and awaiting summer breeding bird survey from OS Ecology.  
North Yorkshire Councillor Les. Cllr Les thanks the PC for their donation to CAB and advises that 137 residents have been helped locally, Cllr Les will forward the email detailing the work CAB have done in our area. Lots of consultations are in progress, housing, finances, nature, household waste recycling centres, soon to follow is the Local Plan consultation. A case of swine flu has been found in the county, Public Health England are actioning this. The appeal for housing on Bolton Road has been successful, with costs to NYC.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings. Parking near to the school, joint meeting arranged for 11/12 with Highways, Cllr Les, PC & Bolton School. Email received from MOP, thanking for the update from October meeting. Bridge, being tanalised, and so for pick up after Christmas. Transport arranged, looking for storage options. Save Our Swale donation, email received from Frank Broughton detailing the costs for monitoring. It was resolved to donate £80. Park signs decision. Quote requested from Typhoon Close Park and change of phone number to other park signs, also suggested a more formal sign for the cemetery bin. Need to add posts x 2 and cemetery sign, clerk to action. Planting on Hospital Road, fruit trees discussed as a possibility, and resolved to speak with Highways. Christmas Tree. Cllr Threlfall states that Tarmac has now moved on and has previously donated the Christmas tree. Alan Coe states that Tarmac will donate £200 towards the tree. Cllr Bell asks if it would be possible to plant some Christmas trees for use in the village in the future, Alan Coe replies that this is a possibility. Footpath between Scorton & Gatherley crossroads will have the growth sided off by Highways contractors, furthermore the section from the garage to the car park will be resurfaced in the next financial year.
- 8) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Cllr Rafelt attended introductory webinar for the NY & Y Local Nature Recovery Strategy, their aim is to reverse the decline in nature. Cllr Rafelt found this interesting and pertinent to Scorton, the webinar mainly discussed islands of nature and using corridors to link these islands. Cllr Rafelt adds that as we are sandwiched between two national parks, which are linked by the Coast to Coast path then this may form an important corridor for nature. Additionally, there is a consultation relating and this has been forwarded to Cllrs, SOS group and on the PC Facebook page. Clerk to forward the meeting link to Cllrs, Alan Coe & SOS group. Cllr Les adds that the mapping of nature is important to help improve and increase the quality of nature preservation. Alan Coe leaves.

## 9) Accounts

### Incoming:

- Feast (Coronation donation) £250.00
- Plusnet (Refund due to change of service provider) £18.05
- Rotadex (Return of shelving) £478.54
- NYC (Urban grass cutting) £1064.18

### Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
- V Raven (Wages November) £594.54
- BT (Broadband) £113.57
- Mac Plant (Cemetery – prune holly tree, weed/moss spraying, hedge cutting, new bollards) £558.00
- Mac Plant (Tree prune, hedge cutting, gravel spread Bridge Green) £480.00
- Save Our Swale (Donation) - £80.00

Precept decision 2024/25. Forecast circulated to Cllrs, % and actual increase given for a Band D property (although likely that this figure may change slightly). IT equipment (computer) needs to be replaced in the next financial year, this was discussed and clerk to seek advice. It was resolved to increase the precept to £17000.

Local Government pay agreement 2023. Dated 6<sup>th</sup> November the pay increase agreed = 3.88%. It was resolved to remain at pay scale 20 and implement the recommended increase. Annual salary for 8 hours/week £6552.00 (2023/24), back pay for this increase to be paid in increments.

## 10) Planning matters

Granted: FPP for outbuildings alterations and link, boundary wall to be demolished and rebuilt as cavity wall. The Cottage, High Row. LBC for flue to single storey side extension, permeable block paving to the drive and small paved area to the south elevation and timber gazebo. The Lodge, Hospital Road

- 11) Safety review. No new items from the inspection report. The algae and mossy areas discussed, quote from a contractor received to include circular stoned area at cemetery, lych gate, Typhoon & Spitfire play equipment and benches, stone steps around the green, Mollie Cail park steps to the side of slide and top area of slide. Total £500.00. Cllr Bell asks about the use of detergent, Cllr Threlfall will ask. It was resolved to accept this quote.
- 12) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Resident reported damage to garden following our contractors accessing for hedge cutting, clerk to send apology. Area in front of St Clare's View requires some work to verge. Cllr Bell reports a large branch from the willow down in high winds. Mac Plant have removed main part but to wait for drier ground before heavy equipment can go on to remove remaining damaged limb. Dog fouling problematic on Bridge Green. Clerk reported to dog warden. Surface water lying on Bridge Green. Gravel to be placed here. S&D Times discussed, clerk to ask the NY & Y Local Nature Recovery Strategy for an article and also an update from Alan Coe. Grass cutting tender discussed, clerk has asked other nearby clerks who they use and if they are happy with the service. Tender due for advertising in January 2024, clerk to advertise on Richmondshire Today and local newspaper. Meeting dates for 2024 discussed and clerk to circulate.
- 13) Correspondence. NYC – Household Waste Recycling Centre consultation. Cllrs to complete online. NYP – Property marking. Date arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> February, clerk to put in S&D Times and advertise on website and Facebook page near the time. Kiplin Hall invitation to PC. Cllr Rafelt, Threlfall and clerk will attend on the weekend 1<sup>st</sup> December. St Marys Church – Christmas Tree Festival. Received invite today, it was felt this was too late to get involved this year. Clerk to decline but ask them to let us know about any future events. CAB & British Royal Legion thanks for the recent donations.
- 14) Date of next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January

Meeting closed: 21.35